

## **Cathy A. Beck**

*Wildlife Biologist*

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Sirenia Project

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### **EDUCATION**

- 1985 M.S., University of Florida, Wildlife Biology. Thesis title: Helminth parasites of the West Indian manatee, *Trichechus manatus*, L., in Florida  
1978 B.A., California State University, Long Beach, Biology  
1975 A.A., El Camino College, California

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION / PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS**

Current interests include photo-identification studies of mammals, parasites of manatees, manatee food habits and diet determination, the assessment of marine and aquatic habitats, and extralimital distribution of manatees.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1989 - present **Wildlife Biologist**, U.S. Geological Survey-BRD/National Biological Survey/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gainesville, FL  
1978 - 1988 **Biological Technician**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gainesville, FL

**Previous work experience:** teaching assistant in Parasitology (1982 - University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine) and Marine Biology (1976 - 1978, Glendale College); museum curatorial assistant in mammalogy (1977 - 1978, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History).

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS (Current)**

- Journey North, an educational Math and Science Project of The Annenberg Foundation:  
Scientific Consultant on manatees, 1997 - Present  
Society of Marine Mammalogy: Charter member, 1983 - Present; Biennial Conference Committee, 1995;  
Serve as one of four reviewers for the Emily B. Shane Award, for research on Odontocetes and Sirenians, 1997 - Present (\$10,000 annually to eligible students or researchers)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Quality Performance/Special Achievement Awards: 1980, 1983, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995.  
Merit Increase Awards: 1981, 1983, 1990, 1993, 1997.  
Recipient of grants for studies of humpback whales in Hawaii (1975, Cabrillo Marine Museum and the American Cetacean Society) and marine life in the Gulf of California (1974, Palos Verdes Oceanographic Society).

## **GRANTS FOR CURRENT RESEARCH**

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1999, \$4,000.  
National Biological Information Infrastructure, 1998, \$65,000.  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1997, \$27,280.  
Research Partnership Program, 1997, \$4,609.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Eros, C., H. Marsh, R. Bonde, T. O'Shea, **C. Beck**, C. Recchia, and K. Dobbs. 2000. Procedures for the Salvage and Necropsy of the Dugong (*Dugong dugon*). Research Publication No. 64, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. 74 pp.
- Marsh, H., **C.A. Beck**, and T. Vargo. 1999. Comparison of the capabilities of dugongs and West Indian manatees to masticate seagrasses. *Marine Mammal Science* 15(1):250-255.
- Mignucci-Giannoni, A.A., **C.A. Beck**, R.A. Montoya-Ospina, and E.H. Williams, Jr. 1999. Parasites and commensals of the West Indian manatee from Puerto Rico. *Journal of the Helminthological Society of Washington* 66(1):67-69.
- Langtimm, C.A., T.J. O'Shea, R. Pradel, and **C.A. Beck**. 1998. Estimates of annual survival probabilities for adult Florida manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*). *Ecology* 79(3):981-997.
- Mignucci-Giannoni, A.A., and **C.A. Beck**. 1998. The diet of the manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) in Puerto Rico. *Marine Mammal Science* 14(2):394-397.
- Beck, C.A.** and J.P. Reid. 1995. An automated photo-identification catalog for studies of the life history of the Florida manatee. Pp. 120-134 in T.J. O'Shea, B.B. Ackerman, and H.F. Percival, eds., *Population Biology of the Florida Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris)*. National Biological Service, Information and Technology Report 1. 289 pp.
- Wright, S.D., B.B. Ackerman, R.K. Bonde, **C.A. Beck**, and D.J. Banowetz. 1995. Analysis of watercraft-related mortality of manatees in Florida, 1979-1991. Pp. 259-268, in T.J. O'Shea, B.B. Ackerman, and H.F. Percival, eds., *Population Biology of the Florida Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris)*. National Biological Service, Information and Technology Report 1. 289 pp.
- Beck, C.A.** 1994. Book review of Marine Mammals Ashore: A Field Guide for Strandings, J.R. Geraci and V.J. Lounsbury. 1993. Texas A&M Sea Grant Publication TAMU-SG-93-601. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 30(4):620-621.
- Salisbury, C.L. and **C.A. Beck**. 1993. Regional West Indian manatee 1992 Studbook. Lowry Park Zoological Garden, Tampa, FL. 38 pp.
- Beck, C.A.** and N.B. Barros. 1991. The impact of debris on the Florida manatee. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 22(10):508-510.
- Bonde, R.K. and **C.A. Beck**. 1990. How the Florida manatees fare today. *Whalewatcher* 24(1):8-9.
- Buergelt, C.D., R.K. Bonde, **C.A. Beck**, and T.J. O'Shea. 1990. Myxomatous transformation of heart valves in Florida manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*). *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* 21(2):220-227.